



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 20, 2007
Week Ending: August 19, 2007
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Spring Grain Harvests Continue at Fast Pace

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Grain harvest continued to move along briskly. Most counties reported that winter wheat harvest was finished and they are well into spring cereal grains. Initial reports indicate that yields for spring grains are average to below average. Rain on Sunday slowed the harvest down but was welcome as farmers needed moisture for winter wheat seeding. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas and Grand fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cool and wet conditions hampered the harvest. Gala apple harvest was anticipated to start this week. Many apple orchards have been mowed, weeded and harvest bins placed in the orchards. Harvest of Bartlett pears, peaches and nectarines continued. The sweet corn harvest was underway and the blueberry harvest was winding down. Tomato growers needed some heat to bring crops to maturity, and the potato harvest had begun. In Skagit County, the cabbage seed crop harvest had begun but was hampered by rains.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 15% very poor, 19% poor, 29% fair and 37% good. On the west side, pasture condition was excellent and rotations were lasting much longer than expected. On the east side, conditions were difficult as pasture growth shut down weeks ago from heat and lack of rain.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	18	40	42	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	23	37	39	1
Subsoil	23	37	40	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	39	48	0
Irrigation Water	3	5	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	7	88	0
Hay & Roughage	9	19	70	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	76	55	67	69
Winter Wheat Harvested	90	84	82	80
Barley Harvested	73	53	58	63
Potatoes Harvested	36	35	43	37
Corn Silked	88	86	97	98
Corn Dough	42	33	43	43
Corn Dented	14	4	30	30
Corn Mature	3	NA	8	5
Corn Silage Harvested	5	2	18	11
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	14	NA	20	15
Dry Peas Harvested	84	80	95	81
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	98	95	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	51	50	59	67

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	2	14	84	0
Corn	0	0	14	70	16
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	24	62	12

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather continued to be cool with highs in the 60's and lows in the 50's. Producers were able to get several cuttings of hay.

Grays Harbor: Heavy rain showers throughout the week quickly replenished soil moisture. The unseasonably cool temperatures and heavy rainfall delayed cereal grain harvest. Christmas tree growers noted that this month's rainfall had a "greening" effect on plantation grown Noble fir. Potato growers mowed fields in preparation for harvest. Livestock owners were pleased that pastures and hayfields turned green and were rapidly growing due to this month's rainfall. Sweet corn growers were able to reduce irrigation due to replenished soil moisture. Home gardeners complained about the lack of heat units and no ripe tomatoes!

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Cooler than normal conditions continued for another week, making this one of the coolest Augusts on record. Sporadic showers also fell during the week. Corn farmers would like warmer weather to push the corn toward maturity.

Mason: This is the first summer of recent memory where the burn ban was lifted in mid-summer and has remained lifted. There was .3 inches of precipitation received over the weekend. More rain is anticipated. For the pasture/grazier this has been a dream summer as the grass had very little dormancy and was regrowing well. Cows have been kept in their current rotation longer than normal because the rain is refreshing the field as they eat it down which is not a normal thing for this time of year. The downside is the increase in mosquito activity and fungal problems with some farm stand crops like beans.

Pierce/S. King: The corn crop looked good. Other crops in the South Puget Sound were also doing well. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event. There were no reports of any unusual situations.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 72 degrees. There was .3 of an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. Locally you can purchase blueberries, blackberries, cucumbers, corn, potatoes and much more. Wheat was finishing up. This year's harvest was average with a price around \$6 per bushel which is much higher than our traditional average. The rain could have devastating effects on the cabbage seed crop, which was cut and drying in the sun before harvest. The rain can

sometimes shatter the seed pod and reduce the yield dramatically. Spinach seed farmers were cursing the rain, with the majority of this year's crop on the ground. The rain will set back harvesting and reduce yields. Bulb harvest was complete. Area bulb farmers will begin planting. One area bulb farmer already had all his Daffodils in the ground. Potato harvest had begun. Rumor has it that yields will be down this year with excellent quality. This year's Cucumbers were being harvested, mostly by hand this year.

Snohomish/N. King: It continued to be cool with some hot days in between. The corn does not seem to be ripening as it should. Cool weather crops were doing well. Temperatures continued to be in the low 70's for a high and the 50's for a low.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Heavy rains on Sunday put a stop to most field work but was good for most crops. Sweet corn harvest was underway. Pumpkins were sizing up. Early apples were being harvested. Blueberry harvest was winding down. Potato vines were dying down and harvest will begin soon.

Thurston: Another week of unseasonably cool temperatures combined with heavy rain showers over the weekend have convinced most agricultural producers that summer had ended and fall had arrived. Turfgrass growers were able to reduce irrigation frequency due to the high rainfall this month. Blueberry harvest had peaked and was about three weeks from completion. Growers were pleased that yields this year were above average and prices were good. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas and Grand fir. Livestock owners were pleased that pastures and hayfields have turned green due to the unseasonable rainfall throughout the month. Home gardeners complained that the cool weather has slowed the maturity of warm season vegetable crops.

Thurston (2nd Report): The area has been experiencing a cold summer. Tomato crop looked questionable.

Whatcom: It was a nice week with temperatures in the mid to high 70's; lows were high 40's to low 50's. There were a couple of light showers during the week, with a good rain Saturday night through Sunday morning. Blueberry harvest was still in full swing. Potatoes were still being devined. Grass silage that was irrigated was chopped and put up as silage. The corn looked good.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Light rain was received on Sunday. Winter wheat harvest continued. Some producers in the northwestern portion of the county were reporting light yields due to frost damage received in May. Overall, the crop harvest was resulting in normal yields.

Benton: Harvest was progressing well, various range fires continued to destroy significant grazing areas and have consumed over 1,000 acres of CRP land and 100's of acres of wheat stubble.

Kittitas: It was a cooler week with sweet corn harvest beginning in earnest. Cool-season grasses were beginning to regrow. Rangeland conditions remained extremely dry, but the weather is expected to turn.

Klickitat: Rain showers were received on Sunday throughout eastern WA. Night temperatures were in the 40's.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 8 degrees above normal to 5 degrees below normal, with .12 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Cool, wet and slippery conditions hampered harvest. Gala apple harvest was anticipated to start this week. Many apple orchards have been mowed, weeded and harvest bins placed in the orchard. Meanwhile harvest of bartlett pears, peaches and nectarines continued.

Eastern

Adams: Rain received on Sunday mostly eliminated any concern about seed zone moisture for winter wheat seedings. Farmers were going to have to possibly delay seeding to remove germinating weeds.

Adams (2nd Report): Weather patterns finally changed course with approximately .3 of an inch of rain throughout the county on Sunday. A little hay got wet, but otherwise, the rain was a welcomed event that should allow for some weed germination and control ahead of seeding.

Asotin: Harvest was finishing up with crop yields slightly below average to much below average in most parts of the county. The rain finally came this weekend. Continued rain is needed for pastures.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather allowed the majority of farmers to finish up with harvest. The area received about .25 of an inch of rain Sunday, but much more is needed to improve the rangeland and pasture conditions.

Ferry: The county received .04 to .1 plus of an inch of precipitation. Winter wheat harvest was about 75 percent complete.

Garfield: Another hot week with temperatures in the 100's. Rain on Sunday will slow harvest for a day or two. Wheat Head Armyworm in the north and Barley Mealy bug in the southeast corner of Washington were new locations for these pests. Yields were average. DNS wheat crop was a success.

Lincoln: Harvest was nearing an end but precipitation received during the week will delay that for a few days. Winter wheat seeding should be easier after the rains as seed zone moisture is no longer a concern.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest was progressing steadily, but was delayed by a generally welcomed rain that was received on Sunday. Winter wheat yields were estimated to be in most cases a little below average, with spring grains estimated to be lower due to the previous heat and lack of precipitation.

Pend Oreille: Temperature high was 90 degrees; the low was 38 degrees. .3 of an inch of precipitation was received. Conditions continued to be extremely dry. There was no third cutting of alfalfa as of yet and it is doubtful one will occur. Livestock were staying in shaded areas during the day and grazing on dried grass in the early morning and evenings.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The rain received on Sunday will delay harvest for a few days. Rainfall totals were less than .5 of an inch and the cool weather will cause producers to wait a few days before getting back into the fields. Harvest was progressing pretty well with a large amount of the winter wheat cut. Spring crops were being cut and the damage to the spring crops was becoming known. Reports were that yields were down significantly by some producers who have been cutting the spring crops. Hot weather and lack of rain were the main factors for the reduced yields. Hay buyers were starting to realize just how tight the hay market is. Those who did not buy hay early were paying dearly to find hay.

Stevens: Grain harvest continued. Irrigated hay producers began third cutting. Rain began Saturday night and continued through most of Sunday, clearing the sky of smoke and easing fire danger for a few days.

Walla Walla: Grain harvest was just about finished. Welcomed rain was received on Sunday. Some hay was wet, but the rain is supposed to end and dry out. The area needs more rain for seeding this fall. Hay is in short supply this year.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Harvest continued. There was a break for all on Sunday as the area received nice steady rainfall most the day. Although those still harvesting were shut down Sunday due to rain, most were pleased by the event.

Whitman: Harvest was moving at a brisk pace and most of western Whitman County was completed. Central and eastern areas continued on with most of the winter wheat in the bin and spring crops were being cut. Rain came to the Palouse on Sunday bringing totals ranging from .3 to .4 of an inch of precipitation. The rainfall was welcomed in the extreme dry conditions and really should not delay harvest activity too much.

Weekly Weather Statistics
August 20, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
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WEST															
Bellingham Intl	47	81	62	-1	87	-4	17	-10	0.00	-0.32	0	35.75	+0.18	101	171
Everett	52	80	64	+1	101	+7	31	+3	0.21	-0.11	1	33.41	-2.46	93	173
Hoquiam	51	81	64	+3	98	+14	28	+9	0.31	+0.00	4	71.79	+4.61	107	200
Kelso	48	88	65	+0	106	+3	36	-1	0.75	+0.41	2	40.62	-5.24	89	141
Olympia	44	88	63	-2	91	-4	22	-6	0.35	+0.07	2	57.11	+7.14	114	171
Seattle-Tacoma	55	85	66	+0	115	+4	45	+3	0.45	+0.19	1	45.16	+8.50	123	163
Shelton	44	85	62	-4	87	-21	20	-22	0.25	-0.02	3	77.60	+13.33	121	179
Tacoma WA AP	48	85	64	-2	96	-9	26	-9	0.51	+0.22	2	40.96	+1.30	103	163
Vancouver WA	51	91	68	+4	131	+26	61	+21	0.33	+0.05	1	38.23	-2.50	94	144
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	51	98	70	+3	141	+16	71	+13	0.08	+0.01	1	8.13	-0.60	93	81
Omak AP	50	97	72	+5	156	+34	86	+31	0.04	-0.24	1	10.44	-4.18	71	63
Stampede Pass	42	85	57	+1	53	+4	18	+5	0.26	-0.18	1	98.05	+17.97	122	186
Wenatchee	57	95	73	-1	160	-3	90	-2	0.04	-0.03	1	8.60	+0.53	107	51
Yakima AP	45	97	69	-2	133	-2	63	-4	0.12	+0.05	1	7.04	-0.72	91	62
NORTHEAST															
Colville	46	95	70	+4	142	+27	72	+23	0.21	-0.05	1	14.69	-6.05	71	106
Deer Park	39	95	66	-4	112	-19	44	-19	0.28	+0.09	1	18.06	-0.11	99	113
Republic	41	93	66	+3	114	+18	44	+9	0.25	-0.04	1	13.90	-1.50	90	79
Spokane AP	52	94	69	+0	135	+4	66	+2	0.37	+0.23	1	15.02	-1.13	93	102
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	55	100	72	-3	155	-16	85	-16	0.10	+0.03	1	7.37	+0.26	104	68
Moses Lake	49	101	70	-5	143	-28	73	-28	0.08	+0.01	1	6.43	-0.68	90	65
Quincy	55	98	72	+2	155	+11	85	+9	0.11	+0.04	1	7.91	+0.27	104	52
Ritzville	52	99	71	+3	150	+16	80	+14	0.00	-0.08	0	10.47	-0.61	94	83
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	55	102	74	-4	171	-23	101	-23	0.11	+0.04	1	4.77	-1.58	75	50
Pasco	48	102	71	-4	147	-22	77	-22	0.07	+0.00	1	7.35	+0.05	101	71
Pullman	41	98	65	-2	110	-3	43	-6	0.20	-0.01	1	16.64	-4.09	80	106
Walla Walla Rgn	57	98	74	-2	167	-6	97	-6	0.60	+0.39	1	18.23	-0.90	95	92
Whitman Mission	47	102	70	+0	144	+1	74	+0	0.04	-0.10	1	13.34	-0.15	99	100
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	57	103	78	+4	194	+25	124	+26	0.00	-0.18	0	8.67	-3.40	72	84

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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